# APPARATUS AND METHOD TO SELECT A CAPTAIN FROM A PLURALITY

# OF CONTROL NODES

## Abstract

A method to select a captain control node from a plurality of interconnected

5    control nodes is disclosed. The method provides by each of the plurality of control nodes

a first signal to each of the other control nodes, and then receives by each of the plurality

of control nodes, a response signal from each of the other control nodes. The method

then calculates by each of the plurality of control nodes individual response times for

each of the other control nodes, and determines by each control node its aggregate

10    response time. The method then determines whether to select a captain control node

using the aggregate response times. If the captain control node is selected using the

aggregate response times, then the method then determines the minimum aggregate

response time, and designates the control node having that minimum aggregate response

time the captain control node.